

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday June 29, 1977

CG NIDC 77-150C

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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Approved For Release 2005/06/30 : CIA-RDP79T00975A030200010049-2

Approved For Release 2005/06/30 : CIA-RDP79T00975A030200010049-2

National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, June 29, 1977.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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SOUTH KOREA - US: Relations

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[] *The South Korean government, in National Assembly interpellations over the past several days, has deflected opposition efforts to criticize President Pak for his handling of the US troop withdrawal issue.*

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[] Some of Pak's opponents apparently considered the President politically vulnerable on the grounds that his handling of the issue had created frictions with the US. In the interpellations, however, Pak's ministers were able to direct much of the criticism toward the US by focusing on recent press reports of alleged US bugging of the presidential Blue House and "unfair" US Congressional hearings on South Korea.

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[] Still, the Pak government has been careful not to encourage unlimited expressions of anti-US sentiment. In a message to the Assembly, Pak made it clear that he considers it counterproductive to fight publicly against US force reductions and prefers to concentrate instead on obtaining US compensation.

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[] South Korean press treatment of the withdrawal issue generally reflects this attitude. Following the US Senate's failure to adopt a resolution endorsing a troop withdrawal, the Seoul press conveyed some hope that US policy would be reversed, but it is now taking the line that this is unlikely.

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[] The pro-Pak political party may yet support a National Assembly resolution criticizing US withdrawals. It would do so,

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however, mainly to prevent the opposition from proposing such a measure unilaterally, thereby deriving domestic political capital from the withdrawals, which are unpopular with most South Koreans.

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CANADA: New Microwave Standards

[Redacted] //Canadian health authorities are seeking to establish microwave safety standards that would limit exposure of workers to 1,000 microwatts per square centimeter and of the general public to 100 microwatts per square centimeter. These are, respectively, one tenth and one one-hundredth of the standards generally observed in the US, and promulgation of them could increase pressure on the US to change its regulations.//

[Redacted] //The proposed Canadian standards are more far-reaching than those Sweden imposed on January 1. Sweden was the first Western country to break with the standard of 10,000 microwatts per square centimeter accepted in the West since the 1950s. Unlike the proposed Canadian standard, the Swedish standard covers only workers. The Canadian proposal covers both open-beam devices, such as radars, and closed cavity devices, such as microwave ovens, over a broad range of applications. The proposed standards for microwave ovens, however, are similar to those in the US.//

[Redacted] //More stringent US occupational safety standards for such equipment would make its operation more expensive and could inhibit its use.//

[Redacted] //A reduction in the US safety standard from 10,000 to 1,000 microwatts per square centimeter, moreover, could have considerable impact. A Department of Defense study concludes, for example, that to comply with such a standard, the Department would have to acquire much additional land surrounding installations such as radars. [Redacted]

SPAIN: Minority Government

[Redacted] Spanish Prime Minister Suarez announced last night that he would form a minority government drawn entirely from

his own centrist political alliance. He pledged that the new cabinet, which he hopes to name by the weekend, would introduce deep political, economic, and social changes in Spain. Suarez apparently hopes to have support on key legislation from Catalan and Basque regional parties.

The delay in forming a government implies that Suarez has been having difficulty with some of the more independent-minded parties that make up his Union of the Democratic Center. Earlier yesterday the centrist leaders signed a parliamentary pact and agreed to work toward the eventual formation of a single party--an apparent setback for Suarez, who has been making strong efforts to merge the groups that comprise the disparate alliance into one party before forming a government.

The strongest resistance to unification, according to press reports, came from the Social Democrats, who fear that their tenuous center-left identity would be lost in a center-right party. The center, they believe, would then be accused of resurrecting the Francoist National Movement, weakening it as a political force.

Final vote counts have not yet been released, but the Suarez government still appears to fall ten seats short of a majority in the lower house.

Yesterday Suarez made overtures to the Catalans by holding talks with Josep Tarradellas, the 78-year-old president of the Catalan government-in-exile. Socialists and Catalans have been demanding that Tarradellas--a symbol of the autonomy enjoyed by Catalonia from 1932 until its defeat in the civil war--be readmitted to Spain as an earnest of the government's willingness to open serious negotiations to restore the region's autonomy. He was flown to Madrid from Paris for the meeting with Suarez; it is not yet clear whether he will remain in Spain.

Suarez described the surprise meeting with Tarradellas as "a step forward for Catalan autonomy." Though careful to point out that the restoration of regional autonomy must be decided in parliament, the Prime Minister clearly implied sympathy for the Catalan goal.

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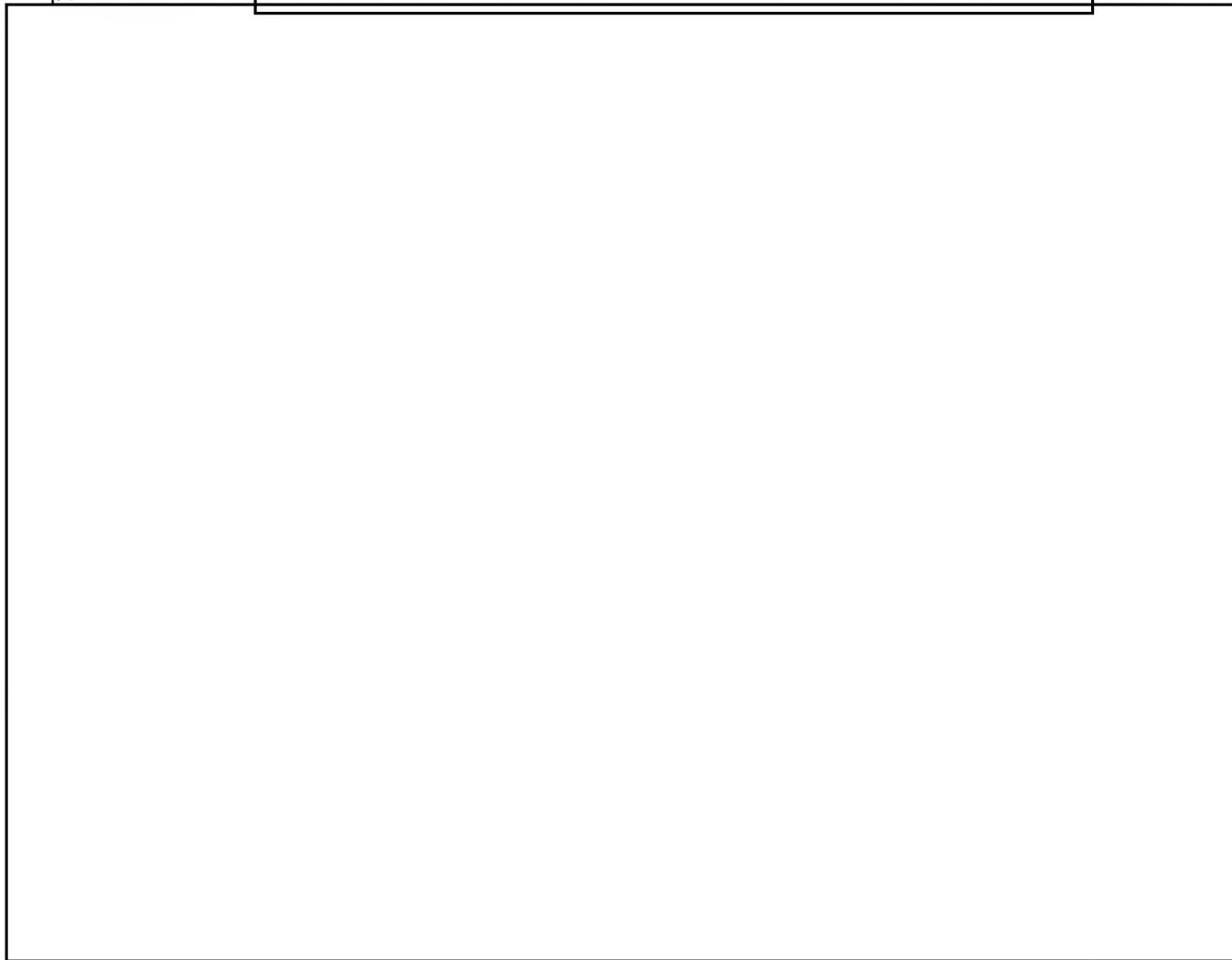
[redacted] Suarez may have decided to ride the winds of change that favor increased autonomy for the regions. He seems to be trying to convince the Catalans that he will champion their cause in the legislature in return for their support for his minority government.

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[redacted] The greatest stumbling block to increased autonomy for the regions is the military, which staunchly opposes any weakening of Madrid's authority or of national unity. The armed forces might try to block attempts by Suarez to make concessions to the regions, but would almost certainly accept a decision by parliament.

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